

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 053978
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AID-05 PC-01 SCS-03
SCA-01 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00
INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /079 R

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APPROVED BY AF:ESCHAUFEE
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-----110120Z 116119 /63

O 110002Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053978

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE - BORDER ATTACK FROM ANGOLA

REF: PARIS 6874; KINSHASA 2089

1. REFTEL REPORTS APPOINTMENTS FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS. WE WISH TO PROFIT BY AMBASSADOR SEELYE'S PRESENCE IN PARIS TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOF ON DEVELOPING INTRUSION INTO ZAIRE FROM ANGOLA. WE LEAVE TO EMBASSY'S DISCRETION CHOICE OF OFFICIAL WITH WHOM AMBASSADOR SEELYE SHOULD DISCUSS ZAIRIAN SITUATION.

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PAGE 02 STATE 053978

2. RELEVANT BACKGROUND TELEGRAMS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE EMBASSY FOR AMBASSADOR SEELYE.

3. POINTS WE WISH AMBASSADOR SEELYE TO MAKE ARE:
--(A)SUMMARY OF SITUATION DRAWING FROM EMBASSY KINSHASA TELS AND PRESS GUIDANCE. ESSENTIALLY, AN ARMED FORCE OF UNDETERMINED SIZE ENTERED ZAIRE ON MARCH 8

AND HAS OCCUPIED AND IS PRESENTLY HOLDING SEVERAL TOWNS

LOCATED IN THE TRIANGLE FORMED BY THE ANGOLAN NORTH-EAST BORDER WITH ZAIRE. COMPOSITION, ORIGIN AND MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES OF THIS FORCE PRESENTLY UNKNOWN. PRESIDENT MOBUTU WILL FIRST ATTEMPT OBTAIN POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM BUT IS MOBILIZING HIS MILITARY AS WELL AND HAS APPROACHED US FOR ASSISTANCE IN GENERAL TERMS.

-- (B) WE WOULD APPRECIATE A FRENCH GOVERNMENT ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND VIEWS ON WHAT WEST'S REACTION SHOULD BE IF ATTACKERS DO NOT WITHDRAW. ALSO, HAS PRESIDENT MOBUTU ASKED FRENCH FOR ASSISTANCE? IS THERE ANYTHING FRENCH FEEL THEY COULD USEFULLY DO (E.G., CRASH REHABILITATION OF PANHARDS, PSYCHOLOGICAL OVERFLIGHTS WITH KINSHASA-BASED MIRAGES, ARM THE MIRAGES ETC.) TO ASSIST ZAIRE TO RESIST INVADERS?

-- C. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US IS FRAGMENTARY, IN RESPECT ZAIRIAN MILITARY CAPABILITY AS WELL AS COMPOSITION, CAPABILITY, AND INTENTIONS OF INVADING FORCE. OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSION IN KINSHASA IS ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE NECESSARY ANALYSIS AND IS IN TOUCH WITH FRENCH AND BELGIAN MISSIONS.

-- D. FINALLY, WE NOTE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE INVADING FORCE INCLUDES RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBERS OF FRENCH MERCENARIES. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THESE
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PAGE 03 STATE 053978

REPORTS BUT ALLEGATIONS OBVIOUSLY COULD SURFACE AT ANY TIME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: EMARKS:JR
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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